increased when the number of end user device(s) exceeds the predetermined number" (Underlining added for emphasis)

The system of claim 1 stores information data in a plurality of storage medium units (SMU's). The plurality of SMU's is comprised of an archive SMU and a plurality of delivery SMU's. The archive SMU contains the information data that is eventually distributed to end user device(s). When the number of end user device(s) exceeds a predetermined number, the number of delivery SMU's needed is also increased. The information data in the archive SMU is then stored in each delivery SMU that is needed to distribute information data to each end user device. Independent claims 19, 20, and 27, as amended herein, also include features substantially similar to those described above with regard to claim 1.

Claims 1 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kochanski (5,512,934). The rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Kochanski discloses a system and method of transmission of programming on demand that has a plurality of storage mediums and increases the number of storage mediums utilized when the number of end user devices are increased. In Kochanski, the storage mediums utilized already contain the information data and does not store data from another storage medium, whereas, in Applicants' invention, the archive SMU contains the information data and such information data is only stored in the delivery SMU that is needed to distribute information to the end user device. Therefore, withdrawal of the above 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection to claims 1 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 23, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Voeten et al. The rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Voeten discloses a video server for transmitting video signals to a user station in response to a control signal issued by the user stations. In the Office Action, the Examiner

asserted that col. 12 - col. 13, line 5 of Voeten teach the feature where the number of SMU's utilized is increased when the number of end user devices exceeds the predetermined number. This is not the case.

In the portion relied upon by the Examiner, Voeten discloses assigning each buffer to a specific call which corresponds to a channel for a user station. Such portion does not disclose increasing the number of hard disk arrays (SMU's) as the number of user stations exceeds a predetermined number. Voeten uses a predetermined number of hard disk arrays which already have the information stored thereon, whereas, in Applicants' invention, the number of delivery SMU's increases when the end user devices exceed a predetermined number and only these delivery SMU's store information data from the archive SMU.

Therefore, withdrawal of the above 35 U.S.C. §102(a) rejection to claim is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14, 23, and 26 are dependent on claim 1, and due to such dependency, are distinguishable from Voeten for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, withdrawal of the above 102 rejection to claims 2-14, 23, and 26 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Voeten et al. The rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, and 25 are dependent on claim 1, and due to such dependency, are distinguishable from Voeten for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, withdrawal of the above 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection to claims 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, and 25 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Voeten in view of Florin et al. (5,621,456). The rejection is traversed for the following reason.

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As previously stated, claim 20, as amended herein, includes features that are substantially similar to that of claim 1. Therefore, claim 20 is distinguishable from the applied reference of Voeten. The Examiner apparently relied on Florin to teach the feature of providing a mosaic of scenes and not the above-described deficiency of Voeten. Therefore, claim 20 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Voeten and Florin and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Voeten in view of Coverston et al. (5,504,883). The rejection is traversed for the following reason.

As previously stated, claim 27, as amended herein, includes features that are substantially similar to that of claim 1. Therefore, claim 27 is distinguishable from the applied reference of Voeten. The Examiner apparently relied on Coverston to teach the feature of backup control data and not the above-described deficiency of Voeten. Therefore, claim 27 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Voeten and Florin. Claims 28 and 29 are dependent on claim 27, and due to such dependency, are also distinguishable from applied combination of Voeten and Florin for at least the reasons previously described.

Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection to claims 27-29 is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement that claim 17 is allowed.

In light of the above, Applicants' representative traverses the Examiner's rejections and respectfully submits that the references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the present invention, as claimed. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims now in this application are

patentable over the prior art. Early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited. On the basis

of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are

respectfully requested.

The above statements concerning the disclosures in the cited references represent

the present opinion of Applicants' representative and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees,

Applicants' representative respectfully requests the Examiner specifically indicate those portions

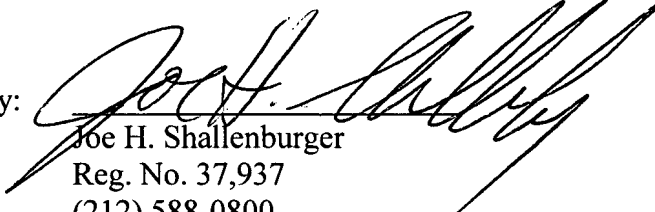of the respective references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Applicants' representative agrees with the Examiner that the prior art made of

record and not relied upon is not as relevant to the claimed invention as are the references upon

which the Examiner has relied.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its

prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' representative at the

telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit

any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

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Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 19, 20, and 27 by rewriting the same as follows:

--1. (Five Times Amended) A system for serving information data over one or more channels to one or more end user devices, comprising:

a plurality of storage medium units for storing information data, wherein said plurality of storage medium units are comprised of an archive storage medium unit which contains said information data and a plurality of delivery storage medium units that stores said information data from said archive storage medium unit as needed;

managing means for managing distribution of the information data to any one of the end user devices, wherein the managing means receives demand data relating to information data selected through at least one respective end user device, and wherein the managing means outputs distribution control data including channel information of the selected information data and routing information for said at least one end user device; and

routing means for connecting the one or more delivery storage medium units to the at least one end user device, and for routing the selected information data from the delivery storage medium units and the distribution control data from the managing means, wherein

the managing means manages the distribution of the information data from one or more of said delivery storage medium units to an appropriate one or more of the end user device(s) in accordance with a predetermined number representing a number of said one or more end user devices such that the number of delivery storage medium units utilized is increased when the number of end user device(s) exceeds the predetermined number.

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19. (Thrice Amended) A system for serving information data over one or more channels to one or more end user devices, comprising:

[one or more] a plurality of storage medium units for storing information data, wherein said plurality of storage medium units are comprised of an archive storage medium unit which contains said information data and a plurality of delivery storage medium units that stores said information data from said archive storage medium unit as needed;

managing means for managing distribution of the information data to any one of the end user devices, wherein the managing means receives demand data relating to information data selected through at least one respective end user device, and wherein the managing means outputs distribution control data including channel information of the selected information data and routing information for said at least one end user device; and

routing means for connecting the one or more delivery storage medium units to the at least one end user device, and for routing the selected information data from the delivery storage medium units and the distribution control data from the managing means, wherein said managing means selects a special play mode for supplying an altered sequence of scenes to the at least one end user device by switching channels for supplying the data information to the at least one end user device.

20. (Thrice Amended) A system for serving information data over one or more channels to one or more end user devices, comprising:

[one or more] a plurality of storage medium units for storing information data, wherein said plurality of storage medium units are comprised of an archive storage medium unit which contains said information data and a plurality of delivery storage medium units that stores said information data from said archive storage medium unit as needed;

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managing means for managing distribution of the information data to any one of the end user devices, wherein the managing means receives demand data relating to information data selected through at least one respective end user device, and wherein the managing means outputs distribution control data including channel information of the selected information data and routing information for said at least one end user device; and

routing means for connecting the one or more delivery storage medium units to the at least one end user device, and for routing the selected information data from the delivery storage medium units and the distribution control data from the managing means,

wherein said managing means selects a special play mode for supplying a mosaic of scenes to the at least one end user device by selecting scenes from different channels.

27. (Four Times Amended) A system for serving information data over one or more channels to one or more end user devices, comprising:

[one or more] a plurality of storage medium units for storing information data, wherein said plurality of storage medium units are comprised of an archive storage medium unit which contains said information data and a plurality of delivery storage medium units that stores said information data from said archive storage medium unit as needed;

managing means for managing distribution of the information data to any one of the end user devices, wherein the managing means receives demand data relating to information data selected through at least one respective end user device, and wherein the managing means outputs distribution control data including channel information of the selected information data and routing information for said at least one end user device; and

routing means for connecting the one or more <u>delivery</u> storage medium units to

the at least one end user device, and for routing the selected information data from the one or

more storage medium units and the distribution control data from the managing means, wherein

said distribution control data further includes backup control data for assigning

one of said one or more <u>delivery</u> storage medium units to supply the selected information data

when another of said one or more <u>delivery</u> storage medium units for supplying the selected

information data is malfunctioning.--

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